

Happenings in the Cities

Was Bitten by Bloodthirsty Barbasteel



NEW YORK.—A large, ferocious, bloodthirsty barbasteel, which chirps like a cricket, is probably more familiar to you under its Latin name of *Synotus barbasteel*, caused a panic among the one hundred employees of Benjamin Fechter, a clothing manufacturer, when it flew through a window of the loft the other morning at 10 o'clock, and bit, scratched, clawed and tore the hair, eyes, ears and noses of several of the men and women working at the machines.

The barbasteel is generally insectivorous or frugivorous, and is a first cousin of the big-eared *Mega-de-magis*, which inhabits Australia. The barbasteel in question, however, was decidedly carnivorous, and to judge from the way it tried to make a ten-course dinner from the physiognomy of Morris Binberg, one of the cutters, it had not eaten for several days.

Binberg was the first one to see the barbasteel as it flew into the shop. Binberg has nice fat cheeks and the barbasteel made straight for the cutter, who dived under his machine too late. The terrible animal caught him by the hair and Binberg started to do a Marathon around the room, shrieking for help at the top of his lungs, while women fainted, and of course, it follows that strong men grew pale. The other employees ran out of the room in a panic, but as they couldn't

pronounce the name of the blood thirsty animal they did not succeed in getting help.

Rosie Goldstein tried to slip under the safe, saying that she had offered to see its species in Russia, but the space beneath the bottom of the safe was too narrow for Rosie's buxom figure, so she was compelled to crawl under a bench.

In the meanwhile Binberg had grabbed a stick and tried to beat the barbasteel, who was devouring the hair tonic on Binberg's curly locks. He managed to hit the barbasteel once after having bruised himself a dozen times.

Manager Joseph Blankford was dancing around in a frenzy, crying "B-b-b-barb-b-b-barbasteel, b-b-beat it, but the ferocious animal couldn't understand Yiddish and transferred his affections from Binberg to Blankford. Joe won by a nose in the race for a closet.

Finally Mr. Barbasteel was cornered and clapped under an empty box, and some 5 or 12 people sat on top to make sure that it didn't escape.

Mr. Fechter returned from a business call, and found his employees completely metrobolized by the awful encounter. Cautiously lifting up the box, he looked within and began to laugh as though he would burst a blood vessel. His employees were aghast when Mr. Fechter grabbed the animal and shoved it into a wide-necked bottle.

"What is it, a neagle?" asked Rebecca Zuckerman.

"No, you blockheads; it's only a bat," said Mr. Fechter.

"Oy oy," said the employees, and went back to work.

Finds Young Son After a Long Search

DENVER.—"There's my papa," said four-year-old Frederick Eugene Lockwood, pressing his face against the window-pane of one of the rooms of the state home for dependent children. A minute later the boy had his arms around his father's neck and both father and son were crying with joy. His identification by the boy was a test suggested by the father to prove that he was the boy's parent.

Frederick H. Lockwood, the father, is a balloonist and parachute jumper, and when there are no circuses nor county fairs where his services are in demand he works as a cook in hotels and restaurants. For more than a year Lockwood has been trying to find his boy, but without success. A few days ago he finished an engagement at the more hazardous of his two occupations in the south and came on to Denver to make another effort to find the boy.

When he asked for the custody of the child he suggested a test to prove that he was the boy's father. He stood, with several other men, outside the home and the boy was taken to a window and asked if he recognized any of the party. The child picked out his father without hesitation.

This time he was successful, but heard a story that made his blood boil with anger.

Little Frederick Lockwood was taken to the detention home last October and left there by Mrs. Edith M.



Villaume Goebel, who told the matron of the home that the boy was turned over to her by an inmate of a resort in Seattle, Wash. She asked the detention home to take charge of the boy.

When the child was undressed at the detention home it was found that his left arm was broken, his left collar bone dislocated and that his body was covered with marks and bruises. He was sent to the county hospital, and from there to the state home. He has never recovered from his injuries, and may be a cripple all his life.

Mrs. Goebel, who lives at 1400 Acacia street, disappeared about that time, but was afterward arrested in Pueblo and brought back to Denver to answer to the charge of cruelty to children. Mrs. Goebel claimed that the boy received his injuries while running away from her to escape a whipping, which she said he deserved.

According to the story told by the father, his wife ran away from him several years ago. He could not take his son with him on his travels, so placed him in the care of Mrs. Goebel.

Old Mansion May Be Sold for Taxes

CHICAGO.—Remnants of what once was the Reber mansion, Chicago's pride in ante-bellum days, will be sold for taxes by Cook county some time in March. For forty years county, state and city have attempted unsuccessfully the collection of taxes on this last vestige of the Reber estate.

And the proceeding will not be without its pathos and romance. By it the home will be sold over the head of Gertrude V. Reber Backus, who in her eighth decade of life is alone in the world. In her eighty years she has seen the mansion of old trans-formed into a forgotten hovel.

The property is at Ellis avenue and West Fortieth street, in the heart of a choice residence district. Lots of 50-foot frontage there are valued at \$10,000. Tax complications have destroyed title to the Reber property and Mrs. Backus has been clinging to her home in the face of impending dispossession.

For thirty years tax buyers have grasped the Reber property at each delinquent tax sale. In those years the residence, with its site, was accepted as a good risk by tax buyers. As years went by and the aged owner hung persistently to her abode, even in defiance of law, the tax buyers abandoned it as a bad proposition.

Since 1907 the county has levied on



the property regularly. Delinquency notices were served with no effect. Court procedure had as little effect. The gray-haired defendant let everything go by default and held steadfastly to her abode.

The county's plan to foreclose on its tax lien is the first action taken against the tax defying estate that can have the effect of dislodging the old lady. The county can obtain the right to sell the property through a master in chancery.

March 29 Peter Schmitz, county tax expert, will go before Judge Scanlan to have the Reber matter referred to a master in chancery. With a report from the master the county will be empowered to advertise the property for sale.

After the sale the heirs to the estate have two years in which to make redemption. Without such action the entire proceeds of the sale will revert to the county treasurer.

Ants' Nests Divert Fashionable City



PARIS.—With the approach of spring the rage for novelty has descended on fashionable Paris. On all sides new forms of the entertainment of guests and new ways of doing things are being subjected to experiment.

One of the most curious of the new fashions is the ants' nest craze. No hostess thinks a drawing room complete unless it contains a glass case inside of which are a few pounds of earth, a large number of ants and their eggs, and a supply of more or less suitable food. Guests are provided with magnifying glasses and are invited to watch the industrious insects carrying on their domestic and civic duties, much as if still in a country field.

To vary the program the ants are made to engage in a pitched battle as one swarm is introduced into the nest of another. Invaders and invaded lock in fierce combat, and a hastily improvised hospital and ambulance service for the injured is organized by the non-combatants. This idea was introduced into Paris society by a well-known singer.

Another innovation which is having an immense success is a dog's training college, which was opened in the most fashionable quarter of Paris. Here a society woman's dumb friend is lodged, fed, and educated in all that he should and should not do at the trifling fee of about \$30 a month, though day pupils are admitted at a lower rate.

Many graceful accomplishments are imparted in the course, which is divided into school and college grades, and diplomas are awarded on a certain standard of proficiency being attained. It is jokingly said that the time-honored French polish is going to the dogs.

HORTICULTURE



INSECT ENEMIES OF TOBACCO

Damage Done by Pests Growing Large or Each Year Throughout the Country—Easy to Control.

The United States produces approximately 1,000,000,000 pounds of tobacco every year, but the farmers who grow this enormous crop pay each year a large dividend to insect pests. The number of serious tobacco pests is not large, and most of them are subject to easy methods of control. Yet, regardless of these facts, the damage to tobacco by insects is growing heavier year by year. True, not all of this loss is preventable, but a large amount of loss may be avoided by proper methods of sowing the seeds, cultivation, rotation and various other indirect as well as direct remedies which affect the insects themselves.



Leaf injured by Leaf Miner.

The tobacco Leaf Miner is an insect which is considered easy to control. The injury made by this insect is manifested by large irregular blotches appearing on the leaves. These are at first whitish, but later become very dry and parchment-like. Leaves injured in this way are unfit for wrapper purposes, as they tear very easily.

There are two generations of the Leaf Miner each year, the winter being passed in the adult stage, the adults hiding away in trash found about the tobacco barns.

The horse or bull seems to be the original food plant of this insect, hence all weeds of this type should be kept out of the tobacco.

Frequent cultivation of the tobacco, stirring the soil up quite close



Tobacco Leaf Miner.

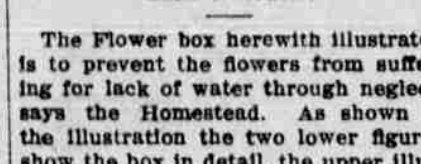
to the plants will bury the pupae so deeply that the adult moths will be unable to reach the surface.

The larvae may be destroyed in the leaves by pinching them, and if a close watch is kept they may be destroyed in this way before they have done much damage. The leaves seem to be able to recover from slight injury, whereas if the larvae is allowed to continue its work, the leaves never recover.

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The flower box herewith illustrated is to prevent the flowers from suffering for lack of water through neglect, says the Homestead. As shown in the illustration the two lower figures show the box in detail, the upper illustration shows the completed box. The principal feature of the box is a small storage tank concealed in the lower section. The water is supplied to the plants through cloth wicks, or sponges, as needed. The wicks are



Handy Flower Box.

simply placed in holes bored through the bottom of the top section, as shown at C C C. To renew the water in the tank without removing the top section a small metal pipe is placed in the end of the box, as shown at A A. A wire telltale is made by placing a cork on a wire and allowing same to float on the water in the tank, thus telling by the length of wire extending out through the tube, A, just how much water is contained in the storage tank. Plant food may also be fed to the flowers by making a solution of same and placing it in the storage tank. The box as shown may be made ornamental, as well as useful.

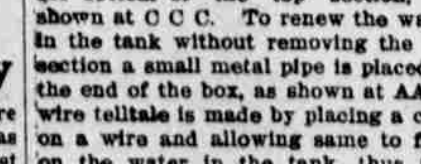


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Resetting the Orchard. Uniformly poor results have followed the replacing of trees that died immediately by other trees of the same kind. But if the hole is opened up in the fall and allowed to lie until in the spring, it is safe then to plant out a tree of the same kind as that which died.

The hole should be opened out a good deal wider and deeper than necessary to receive the new tree. The purpose should be to get out a large part of the dirt around the root system of the first tree that occupied the



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SCRAPING BARK FROM TREES

In Case of Ordinary Healthy Tree Treatment Is Advocated by Pennsylvania Zoologist.

As to the advisability of scraping rough or shaggy bark from apple trees, the state zoologist of Pennsylvania has the following to say:

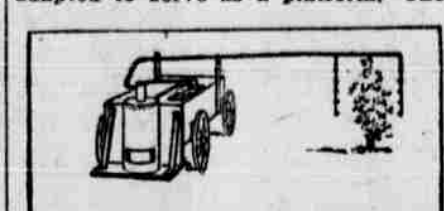
This depends upon the conditions in general. I advise such treatment, especially for rough, scaly bark on old trees; but if it be bark that has been roughened by the injurious action of soil sprays, or by burning with fire or some other injury, I am satisfied it would be wrong, because this is the tender bark beneath which a scab of an animal is to a sore which it is protecting.

Therefore, if the bark beneath be tender, so that it would be injured by being scraped, it is best not to do it. In the case of an ordinary healthy tree it is certainly best, but at injured places, such as above mentioned, it is advisable to scrape gently, if at all. On an old tree one cannot apply enough pressure with a short-handled hoe or bark scraper to do any injury, and this will remove many insect pests, such as codling moth, woolly aphis and certain hibernating creatures, and expose scale insects and other pests to the action of the weather, and of the insecticides to be applied before the leaves appear.

SPRAYER FOR SMALL TREES

Apparatus May Be Wheeled Along Row of Plants With Delivery Pipe on Either Side.

The spraying apparatus shown in the illustration may be wheeled along a row of plants or small trees as desired. The top of the tank is adapted to serve as a platform. The



Sprayer.

delivery pipe has a pair of downwardly projecting arms, each of which is provided with four nozzles. The delivery pipe may be swung to either side of the tank.

JAPANESE PLUM VERY HARDY

Will Grow on Almost Any Soil and Do Not Need Particular Coddling—Come On Early.

Plums of the Japanese variety are popular with most growers, particularly in the east, because they are hardy and come on early. Many of these varieties are the earliest in the market, and as they are always of good color, either cherry reds or light yellows, they sell readily and bring good prices.

They will grow well on almost any kind of decent soil, and do not need to be particularly coddled, although they should have all the care that any good fruit tree deserves.

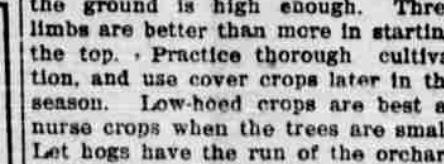
These trees were planted four years ago in soil from which pine scrub had been grubbed only a few weeks before. The trees are bearing well and show fine color and great vigor.

These Japanese plums differ from the domestic varieties in that its leaves are longer, thinner and smoother, and it has a great tendency to produce lateral fruit buds on the annual growth. Its fruit is mostly short, round and plump.

The Japanese plum is less liable to injury from curculio and black knot than the domestic variety. Mr. Fulton says that up to this time his trees have shown no signs of disease or attack from insects of any kind.

Spring Planted Peach Trees.

S. H. Fulton, a well-known peach grower, in a horticultural meeting address, said that spring planting of peach trees is best for northern latitudes. Prune thoroughly and head the trees low. From 18 to 24 inches from the ground is high enough. Three limbs are better than more in starting the top. Practice thorough cultivation, and use cover crops later in the season. Low-headed crops are best as nurse crops when the trees are small. Let hogs have the run of the orchard until peaches begin to ripen. Use lime-sulphur for the scale and peach-leaf curl.



Spring Planted Peach Trees.

Pruning Currant Bushes. Pruning the currant consists of cutting away all dead wood, and thinning out the new growth as may be desired.

Site for Garden. The fruit and vegetable garden should be situated in a well sheltered spot, having the full benefit of the sun and where the soil is well drained.



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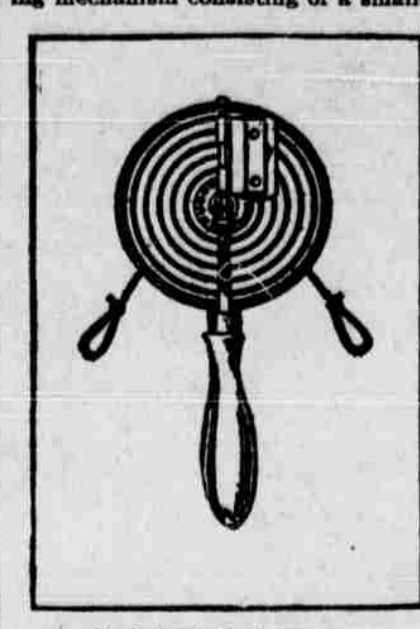
INDUSTRY AND MECHANIC



USEFUL AS TOOL SHARPENER

Made Held Against a Revolving Wheel With Rough Surface Found to Be Effective.

An implement for sharpening tools has been patented by a Pennsylvania man. A handle has a frame in which a wheel with a facing of sharpening material is pivoted. This facing consists of a series of ridges and interposed grooves spirally arranged. The upper part of the frame has a sheath to hold a tool or the blade of a tool against the sharpening surface. On the other side of the wheel is a driving mechanism consisting of a smaller



Useful Tool Sharpener.

wheel to which cords are affixed. As these cords are wound or unwound by pulling them in one direction or another, the sharpening wheel is made to rotate backward and forward and the tool blade is ground to an edge just as it would be if it was held against a wheel driven by foot power or some other motive power.

MAKING PENS OF TANTALUM

Excellent Properties of Metal Have Suggested Idea of Using It for Writing Nibs.

The excellent properties of tantalum have suggested the idea of using this metal for writing pens. Most of the pens now used are of steel, whose elasticity gives the desired pliability to the pens. But the steel pen rusts easily and is attacked by ink. Gold is rust-proof and not so attacked. But gold alone is too soft, and the extreme points must have some hard metal like iridium soldered to them to make them durable, which is complicated and expensive. Some very interesting tests have been made by German scientists. The tantalum metal was out, formed and split like an ordinary steel pen. Then the points were bent, ground shaped, and hardened by a special hardening process, which was found to greatly prolong the life of the pens. Comparative tests were made between steel, gold, and tantalum pen points on six miles of paper, and the results showed the hardened tantalum pen to be far superior to the others. The chemical tests showed these pens to be proof against the attacks of ink.

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USING CEMENT AND CONCRETE

Difference Between These Valuable Materials for Construction of Fireproof Buildings.

Following the big Equitable fire, New York builders and contractors are taking an unusual interest in materials which will render future structures impervious to flames. An authority on the subject, Fred K. Irvine, gives the following interesting description of cement, concrete and reinforced concrete:

"Portland cement is a manufactured product derived from lime rock and clay or similar aluminous raw materials. It is prepared through a process of drying and burning and grinding, so that when finished it becomes a light gray powder or flour.

"So fine is this powder that every grain is actually made to pass through a sieve containing 40,000 holes or meshes to each square inch of surface. That sounds fanciful, but it's a fact, and will give some idea of the size of the meshes.

"Its qualities are these: It hardens or crystallizes by hydraulic process; by mixing with water and letting it stand in the air it will gradually change into stone, and is thereafter practically impervious to the elements of heat and cold. The penetration of heat into a concrete mass is not over three-eighths of an inch at the highest obtainable temperature.

"The same applies to the cold temperatures. When molded into any desirable form cement has a high crushing resistance and a high tensile strength. It can be loaded with almost any possible load without injury and will not crack or show any of the elements of decay that other materials will.

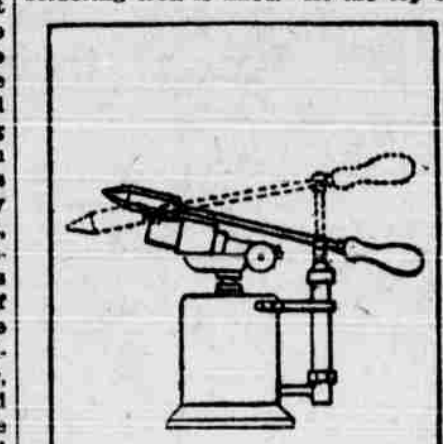
"Concrete is the use of cement in conjunction with sand and crushed rock in such proportions as will develop the highest value of the cement for practical purposes and at the same time bring it within the range of buyers in the matter of cost.

"The next step is reinforced concrete. This is manufactured by using concrete in conjunction with steel so disposed as to contribute the tensile value of steel to the total mass. In this way columns are formed. Such columns are built so as to carry any desired concentrated load."

BLOW TORCH IMPROVEMENT

Soldering Iron Operates Pump Which Heats Point of Iron—Waste of Heat Eliminated.

An ingenious improvement on the plumber's blow torch has been invented by an Ohio man. Any person who has seen a plumber at work is familiar with the can with a jet of flame roaring from a spout above it. In this implement the flame is projected by the operation of an air pump, to the piston of which the handle of the soldering iron is fixed. At the top of



Iron Attached to Piston.

the spout is a bridge on which the point of the iron rests. To heat the point of the iron or to direct the flames at any place on which the iron is raised up and pushed down, and this movement operates the piston which pumps the air into the torch and causes the flame to spurt forth. With this torch the waste of fire is eliminated.



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